Advance train tickets for general compartments

3166. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers who intend to travel in general compartments are required to purchase tickets just a few hours before departure of trains;

(b) whether this new system causes lot of hardship to passengers who are required to stand in serpentine queues;

(c) if so, the reasons for this change in system; and

(d) whether Government would consider advance train tickets for general compartment passengers and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) As per recent instructions, unreserved tickets involving journey upto 200 Kilometers are issued through Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) on the same day and those involving journey of more than 200 Kilometers are issued upto three days in advance excluding the day of journey.

This change has been made after seeing the trend of booking as well as to avoid misuse of short distance unreserved tickets booked much in advance. This change is not expected to cause any hardship to the passengers. As such, there is no proposal under consideration to revise the extant instructions.

Earning of railways during last ten days

†3167. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have earned Rupees 2280 crores during the period 11th to 20th June, 2009;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Railways hardly paid attention to train facilities and passenger security in recent past;

(c) if so, until when Government proposes to provide security and facilities to passengers as per the norms while charging the same fare from them; and

(d) if so, how and if not, the details of reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Efforts are made to ensure comfort and security of the passengers. Ministry of Railways have decided to upgrade the security of passengers at Stations by adopting an Integrated Security System (ISS) which comprises of CCTV surveillance system, access control, personal and baggage screening system and bomb detection and disposal system. Approval has been accorded for implementation of this scheme at 195 sensitive stations of the country at an estimated cost of Rs. 344.31 crores.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.